

AN

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT THE

OPENING

OF THE

NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL

MUSEUM,

SEPTEMBER 10, 1845.

BY

JOHN GREEN CROSSE, M.D. F.R.S.

THE SENIOR SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL.

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MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

You are already made acquainted with the object for which we are assembled—and on first entering this room, you must be able in a great measure to appreciate the importance of that object. The occasion is so peculiarly suited to my feelings, that it stimulates me to undertake a task, for which I should in general deem myself very unqualified—the task of addressing a large public assembly like the present.

When the suggestion was first offered to open this additional building in a public manner, I at once gave my willing assent, not foreseeing that it might place me in this conspicuous and embarrassing position. It is not however becoming to shrink from duties, which mature years and a certain standing bring upon us; and the project has been so congenial to my wishes, has received so much of my time and attention, that I am encouraged to proceed, relying implicitly on your indulgent forbearance.

This Hospital has now been in active operation for above seventy years, and has relieved many thousands of the afflicted; it was amongst the earliest of the provincial hospitals of this kingdom, which have multiplied tenfold of late years, their value being sufficiently estimated, not only for giving gratuitous relief to the afflicted poor, but for offering them equal, or even better medical aid, than the rich are always able to

obtain for themselves. Such institutions, supported by voluntary contributions, are the peculiar boast and ornament of this Empire, for in no other are they maintained in the same manner and to the same liberal extent.

Of such institutions, few if any have been better superintended by the Governors, or turned more advantageously to the public good, than the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, which, without superfluity of funds, has been in general well supported, for with few exceptions (and surely there ought to be none) each man of affluence in the district, each magistrate, or large landed proprietor, gives annual pecuniary aid.

But it would be in vain that funds were provided and good management insured, were there not active, able, and well-educated medical gentlemen ready to devote their time and their mental energies gratuitously to the inmates of an hospital. Experience has proved that, whatever be the exciting cause, whatever be the motive, such gentlemen not only offer themselves for these services, but many enter on their duties with zeal; and some are found, during a very long and harassing life, thus applying their best abilities for the public good. Indeed it is unquestionable, that members of the medical profession, whether attached to public institutions or not, are entitled to rank amongst the most industrious classes of educated society; they are, as a body, the untiring, ever-active servants of the public—they perform fewer duties vicariously than any of the educated members of society—they are required to be, not only *semper parati*, but *semper adstantes*—always at their post. If, therefore, entertaining, as I do most honestly, these views in regard to the profession to which I have the satisfaction of belonging, I should on this auspicious occasion place that profession prominently before you, I hope to be heard with indulgence, and to be excused for my *natural*, my *unavoidable* partiality. The Governors of an Hospital need no eulogium, and particularly those now present, whose voluntary acts of

charity bring their own reward ; but to do posthumous honour to the worthies of any profession, rouses a portion of the living members of that profession to future greater exertions, and thereby tends to the advantage of the public.

This ancient city has supplied many medical men of great eminence, from the remotest to very recent times, and it will be allowable to allude to a few of the most conspicuous amongst them.

Shaded by the lapse of nearly three centuries, but scarcely obscured, we find DR. KAYE, or CAIUS, who was not less renowned as a Scholar than as a Physician. In his early studies abroad, he was associated with a very remarkable man* in the history of our profession, who suffered the most chivalrous persecution for his ardent pursuit of anatomy ; and whilst practising subsequently in this, his native city, Dr. Kaye was intimately acquainted with one of the most renowned of our prelates, the learned Bishop Hall, who lived, as is well known, in very troublous times, and whose language was so terse that he has often been denominated the Seneca of his country. It will not be denied that such writers are rare in the present day, however desirable ; it will readily be admitted that, in regard to language, *brevity with easy perspicuity* deserves to be courted and encouraged, quite as much as *speed with safety* in travelling ; indeed, could we effect improvement in language equal to what has been, in a few recent years, so surprisingly achieved in locomotion, it would perhaps deserve to be considered a still greater advancement of, and benefit to society. We are deluged by the press, and truly may any one say, on this subject, and in our day, "*inopem me copia fecit.*" Dr. Kaye on one occasion outrivalled Bishop Hall, by desiring no more should appear upon his tomb-stone than the laconic inscription of "*Fui Caius.*" After centuries have passed away, the memory of Caius still lives in the

* Andrew Vesalius.

hearts of many, very many individuals of Norwich and of Norfolk, for the encouragement he gave to academic studies ; whilst, as a medical writer, his name has very recently been brought forward afresh, by a reprint of one of his works by the Sydenham Society.* Thus, high character arising out of virtuous conduct, and spirited public acts of munificence, defies the wreck of time.

A century after Caius, there lived in this city one of the most eminent medical characters that we can boast of—SIR THOMAS BROWNE—who is represented to have practised here for forty-six years ; so the tablet erected to his memory, in one of the most splendid of our sacred edifices,† informs us, and which adds that, for his various writings, he was

per orbem notissimus,

Vir pientissimus, integerrimus, doctissimus.

It is stated by a surviving friend of Sir Thomas Browne,‡ that “ he was parsimonious in nothing but his time, whereof he made as much improvement, with as little loss, as any man ;” and that he was so impatient of sloth and idleness, that he would say “ *he could not be doing nothing.*” His more recent Biographer,§ himself possessed of the most gigantic powers of language, says of him that “ his writings will gain him the esteem of posterity, whilst learning shall have any reverence among men ; for there is no science in which he does not discover some skill, and scarce any kind of knowledge, profane or sacred, abstruse or elegant, which he does not appear to have cultivated with success.” In defence of Sir Thomas Browne’s uncommon words and

* A Booke or Counseill against the Sweatyng Sickness, by John Caius, 1552 ; republished in 1844 in *the first volume* (p. 353), issued by the Sydenham Society, and following a translation of *Hecker’s Epidemics of the Middle Ages*.

† St. Peter’s Mancroft Church. The mural monument is placed on the South wall of the chancel, and at the foot of it the remains of Sir Thomas Browne were interred.

‡ Whitefoot’s character of Sir Thomas Browne.

§ Dr. Samuel Johnson, in Murphy’s Edition of his Works, vol. 12, p. 301.

expressions, his Biographer further observes that he had many uncommon sentiments, “but his innovations are sometimes pleasing and his temerities happy—he has many *verba ardentia*”—that is, many penetrating, piercing expressions, which plead for the occasional asperities of his style.

Sir Thomas Browne was the last of our profession to give evidence in support of witchcraft,* and against those accused of it; and when, aided by the present light of science, we look back to the darkness of two centuries ago, we cannot fail to be surprized that, in a mind so prostrate before the dæmon of superstition, there should have existed those powerful effusions of talent, which still are able to attract the attention of the learned. The more valuable of Sir Thomas Browne’s writings are still read in all countries, and even recently his collective Works† have been edited, with great labour, research and expense, and republished in this city.

There is one remark in the “Epistle Dedicatory” to Sir Thomas Browne’s *Hydrotaphia*‡ or *Urn-Burial*, which appears suitable to be quoted on this occasion; it is as follows:—

“When the funeral pyre was out, and the last valediction over, men took a lasting adieu of their interred friends, little expecting the curiosity of future ages should comment on their ashes; but who knows the fate of his bones, or how often he is to be buried? who hath the oracle of his ashes, or whither they are to be scattered?”

Time has caused these words of Sir Thomas Browne to apply emphatically to himself—for, within a recent period, the remains of this eminent writer and physician

* Before Lord Chief Justice Hale, at Bury St. Edmund’s, in 1664, when two wretched Victims were condemned and executed.

† Works of Sir Thomas Browne, in 4 vols. 8vo. including his Life and Correspondence, edited by Simon Wilkin, F. L. S. Norwich, 1836.

‡ Works, by Simon Wilkin, vol. 3, p. 451.

have been partly disintombed;* and the craniologist may henceforth enter this room, to study and compare the remaining indications of those powerful mental faculties, which we know to have been active and productive nearly two centuries ago.

The memory of another highly valued physician is consecrated to futurity by an elegant muro-monumental inscription placed in another sacred edifice of this city;† and in no instance, as it appears to me, have laudatory ideas been more happily associated or contrasted, and conjoined with classical amenity of language. I refer to DR. EDWARD HOWMAN, applied to whom the inscription runs thus:—

————— Vitæ integro,
Evangelicè pio, et liberali,
In praxi medica inter multos
Perito, experto, fideli;
Qui tot morborum Victor
Tandem ipse *non morbo*
Sed senectuti cessit.

Such, my Lord and Gentlemen, are a few of the more striking traits of character, authentically transmitted to us, and referring to members of the medical profession, who long since flourished in this city, and whose name and good deeds have lived after them; I have deemed them (whether erroneously or not, I must leave to your better judgment,) not an unfitting introduction to a notice of the more eminent of those, who have been concerned with your valuable charity, the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and assisted to extend its usefulness.

The first mover of the project of erecting this Hos-

* On the occasion of a fresh interment in the chancel of St. Peter's Mancroft Church, five years ago, the workmen employed broke through the lid of Sir Thos. Browne's coffin, affording an opportunity of examining great part of its contents; and the cranium came into the hands of Dr. Edward Lubbock, who has deposited it in the Hospital Museum. A full account of this occurrence was given in the Norfolk Chronicle (September 19, 1840) by Mr. Fitch, a learned Antiquarian in Norwich.

† St. Stephen's Church.

pital appears to have been BENJAMIN GOOCH, who, many years before the building was commenced, visited other institutions of the kind, both in the provinces and in London, for observation and selection of the best plan, never ceasing to advocate the adoption of his views, until his valued patron, the late WM. FELLOWES, Esq. of Shottesham Park, (whom, as Gooch* himself observes, Providence, that wisely ordereth all things, had blessed with an ample fortune,) became imbued with his zeal, adopted his ideas, and at length drew the attention of the influential inhabitants to the plan of establishing “a general Hospital for the county of Norfolk and the city of Norwich jointly.” Now Gooch had already experienced the value of such an establishment on a small scale, for he states that the erecting of an Infirmary for the benefit of the poor gave him the opportunity of making some of those observations which he published in his first volume; and in his next,† he strongly eulogizes provincial hospitals, remarking that “to the immortal honour of this kingdom, many such Institutions have been founded, and are now well supported by voluntary contributions, which not only afford the best relief to the greatest and most deplorable objects of charity, but have a direct tendency to promote and perfect the knowledge of the medical art, making the benefit extend to all ranks of people.”

Although Gooch was possessed of a strong body as well as mind, his attention and assiduity in discharging the duties of his profession were, as it not infrequently happens, greater than was consistent with the maintenance of health; he was attacked by severe indisposition, which brought imminent danger to life, and compelled him to retire from the scene of his laborious engagements; but he embraced the days of his temporary withdrawal, in perfecting his second volume for

* Cases and Practical Remarks in Surgery. Dedication of Vol. 2; Second Edition. Norwich, 1767.

† Ibid. Preface, p. v.

the press, wherein he observes, by way of preface,* “it having pleased God, in his infinite mercy and goodness, to enable me, I have carefully revised and corrected these papers, and most heartily wish they may answer the end proposed in publishing them, for to promote in any degree the benefit of mankind, and the improvement of a profession I highly regard, will afford me one of the greatest pleasures I am capable of enjoying in the evening of my days.”

Thus the evening of Gooch's days had arrived, but happily not the close, ere the object of his ardent wish, and on which he had so perseveringly bestowed his powerful advocacy, was accomplished; at length this Hospital was built, and in 1771 was so nearly finished as to be accessible to patients; and Gooch soon afterwards, in his final publication,† gave “a short account of the rise and progress of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital,” dedicating the volume to the Governors of the Hospital “as a testimony of the grateful sense he entertained of the honor which they had conferred upon him, in his absence, and without his desire, in appointing him Consulting Surgeon.” The author then goes on to observe “from the principle which originally actuated me, in my inferior station, to promote this establishment to the utmost of my power, it affords me a pleasure superior to every other temporal consideration to observe how it prospers in your hands; and its thriving is not to be doubted, as the nature of the institution extends, in so signal a manner, to the relief and benefit of the miserable, in their several distresses. This very excellent charity will certainly reward the benevolent intentions of its generous supporters, and give the sincerest satisfaction to all who zealously exert themselves in the good work!”

Surely, my Lord and Gentlemen, this is language and these are sentiments, worthy of being revived on

* Ibid, p. ix.

† Medical and Chirurgical Observations, as an Appendix, &c. 1773.

this occasion, when so many of the present assembly can testify to their accuracy, as unfolded by time. The man who could write such sentiments deserves some renown at your hands, that you may thereby encourage others to emulate so good an example—which is the true value and constitutes the real use of posthumous renown, a sort of *possession unpossessed*, which its rightful owner can only know *by anticipation*, for he is an heir-apparent that never gets into possession of *the ideal estate*, which lapses to the public, to be matured and converted to glorious account.

The writings of Benjamin Gooch are referred to at the present day, for their intrinsic and practical value, and have been translated into different languages; his name ought to be known to the Surgeons of all provincial hospitals, for he entertained the purest views for converting them to the most useful purposes, and for rendering each man's experience available to the public. "Making observations carefully, and communicating them faithfully, with the particular treatment of the most remarkable cases, as well unfavourable as favourable in their events, will be of singular service, and prove the surest guides in practice on various occasions. These considerations make me anxious," says Gooch, "that every attentive practitioner would shew his inclination of being useful, in this manner, to the community, in the plainest language, with such conciseness and perspicuity, as are best adapted to the relation of matters of fact; and the candid will excuse little errors of diction or otherwise."* And what this able Surgeon so judiciously advised, he most industriously and carefully performed on his own part, by noticing minutely the history of each case of any interest that came under his observation, as is proved not only by his published works, but by private manuscripts still in existence, thus evincing his extraordinary attention and assiduity in pursuit of the science, as distinguished from the

* Preface to Vol. 2. p. vii.

mere business or lucrative part of that profession, to which he was so ardently attached. Having in view, no doubt, his favourite project, the establishing of this Hospital, he many years before suggested how such Institutions might be made most beneficial, by being converted to the education of pupils, by the surgeons delivering lectures on extraordinary cases, various instruments being collected for inspection, with anatomical preparations, and a suitable selection of books in a room specially provided.* Could the spirit of Benjamin Gooch, so long departed, be permitted to revisit us—could it animate that picture† now before us, and commune with the present assembly, looking around upon the valuable contents, the appropriate furniture of this spacious apartment, in what ecstasy would it address us! Finding the plans of his powerful mind more than realized,‡ Gooch would again, not more honestly, but more emphatically, congratulate the Governors on the satisfaction they must feel, in having aided, and sanctioned, and warmly supported every measure, that has contributed to so noble a result! I must however refrain, lest I enlarge into a memoir what ought to be only a passing sketch. His mortal remains are *scattered*—his spirit will return only to our imaginations—no bust can be obtained—but—*the striking portrait* of this zealous and able surgeon, with whose energies and talents the founding of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital is so intimately identified, *ought permanently to ornament the walls of this Museum Room*, supported by

* Postscript to vol. 2. p. 11.

† Gooch's Portrait, by a Norwich Artist, was pointed to in this passage of the address, being placed in the gallery and directly opposite the platform from which the address was delivered.

‡ There is one exception to the fulfilment of Benjamin Gooch's plans. Although we possess in Norwich one of the best medical libraries to be found in the provinces of the British Empire, there is at present no library within the walls of the Hospital; but the defect is likely to be soon removed. On the day of the inauguration the first contribution was received, an illustrated work, presented by Mr. Firth, Surgeon; Mr. Donne has offered the volumes he still possesses, part of the valuable library of his ancestor, the first Surgeon to the Hospital; and Mr. Page Nicol Scott, the oldest practitioner now resident in Norwich, has most handsomely contributed the surgical part of his own library.

those of *others, kindred spirits*,* whom I can no longer delay to introduce to your notice.

Attached to this Hospital at its first opening, in the capacity of one of its principal surgeons, was WILLIAM DONNE, who attained to much eminence as a lithotomist, and was the first great contributor, by the number and success of his operations, to that unrivalled cabinet of *Urinary Calculi*, now placed in this apartment, and containing this day just seven hundred and fifty seven specimens, the result of the same number of operations, publicly performed in this establishment, authenticated by the name of the Operator and of the Patient, with age, date, and result; an exhibition which is not to be found in the whole world besides, and which we must consider as greatly indebted to Donne for its commencement, as he not only operated upon the first patient, but on forty out of the first fifty. He removed the largest and most remarkable Mulberry Calculus, of which I now shew you an exact cast,† and there is not on record, I believe, another history of such a concretion, as to shape, size, and composition, having been removed with success; he also extracted the largest calculus preserved in the cabinet, and with like success. Although in this instance we have an agreeable exception to the remark that “*dimidium facti qui cœpit habet*,” yet must we duly appreciate Donne’s commencement, for without his contributions, the cabinet would fall far short of its present magnificence. It must be very satisfactory to find this cabinet, such a valuable and authentic record, in its present appropriate situation, instead of that it so long occupied; and the change is one of the many improvements attendant upon the Museum Building.

* Besides Gooch’s portrait, there were placed in the gallery the portraits of Sir Benjamin Wrench, M.D. (lent by the Mayor and Corporation, from the Guildhall), Dr. Caius, Sir Thomas Browne; also of Donne, Alderson (by Opie), Rigby, Martineau, Dalrymple, &c. some of which will remain; and from the feelings awakened in those who attended the inauguration, there can be little doubt that the arrangement will be made permanent, by a Portrait-fund, to secure copies of such original pictures as cannot otherwise be obtained.

† This is No. 34 of the Cabinet, and weighs two ounces and four scruples.

Mr. Donne was an active and efficient Surgeon to this Hospital for thirty-one years, and I am tempted to remark that his lineal representative* is not only a pecuniary contributor to this Museum, but has also presented the only existing portrait of Donne, and is now present, to hear the honourable mention of his name full forty years after his decease. Mr. Donne withdrew from office in December 1802, on account of his infirm state of health, and received the thanks of the Board “for the unremitted attention he had paid to the duties of principal Surgeon from the first opening of the Hospital, for the ability with which he had performed them, and for the advantages which had been derived from his practice, and so much contributed to the benefit of the patients and the reputation of the Institution.”

I have hitherto spoken of those, of whom I knew nothing from my own experience, trusting, like an author who describes a country he has never visited, to authentic records. It ought to prove an easier task to say something of those, who during the lengthened period of my observation in this Institution, a period of above thirty years, have held an honorary appointment, whether as physician or surgeon. Having said nothing of the physicians to the Hospital, whose career had terminated before my time, owing to the narrow limits I am bound to observe in this address, I am equally precluded from dwelling on the character of the three deceased physicians, whom I knew well—of DR. ALDERSON, acknowledged to have possessed much literary acquirement, connected with the Hospital just fifty years, and one of a very talented family, reflecting honour on this city—of DR. YELLOLY, who was my valued colleague and a very zealous cultivator of his profession, and who, being an excellent chemist, took great pains with the cabinet of calculi, securing a correct analysis of each, after a section had been made,

* William Bodham Donne, Esq. of Mattishall, Norfolk, a Magistrate of the County.

which analysis he published, at the same time depositing within our archives a manuscript account of them, with illustrative drawings of the more remarkable—lastly of DR. WRIGHT, only recently deceased, well known to most of the present company, who are able to appreciate the kind and amiable deportment which he invariably maintained through life.

But I am compelled, though reluctant, to pass on to the mentioning of other names, still more powerfully associated with the progress of the Hospital in public esteem—to speak of RIGBY and MARTINEAU, each of whom held appointments, and fulfilled them actively, energetically, and with scarcely any interruption from illness, during half a century—each entering into office when young, and with increasing reputation, from this early beginning, to the ripest maturity in age and experience, continuing to support and benefit this Institution. Rigby and Martineau may be emphatically denominated *par nobile fratrum*; and may we not add *par impar*? for never were two men less alike in many respects, although so successfully united in promoting the same admirable object.

Well may I speak of Rigby, in whose society I spent more time, during several years, than any other medical man, and of whom I long since, with great emotion and perfect truth, as concerned my own feelings and convictions, wrote an eulogy* now before the public.

Rigby was appointed Assistant Surgeon on the first opening of this Hospital; for twenty-four years he acted as one of the principal surgeons; and he had filled the office of physician for seven years when he died. He was undoubtedly devoid of manual dexterity, a qualification rather natural than acquired, but very valuable as well as ornamental to the surgeon of a public hospital; but he was a most intellectual man, even to his maturest years, and possessed not only of the best knowledge of his profession, but had a very

* Prefixed to the 6th Edition of his Essay on Uterine Hæmorrhage.

extensive acquaintance with general science and literature, and he has left several estimable publications, the product of his ready pen, for he had a great facility in composition. In actual practice he won the approbation of those whom he approached by a natural urbanity of manners and a fertile imagination, rather than by studied politeness. “Trusting the more trifling complaints, about which we are often consulted, to time and to nature, he reserved himself for serious cases, to which his attention was invariably unremitting; and the kind friend, the animating companion, and the skilful physician were combined in him, as often as he approached the bed of real sickness. His humanity to the poor was one of the most amiable parts of his character, and was strongly displayed at every period and in every transaction of his life. He entered the hovel with as little reluctance as the mansion, and till age had visibly preyed upon him, he refused not to visit the lowest of his fellow-creatures who sought his assistance.”* Within the walls of this Hospital he exercised, in the highest perfection, all the noble qualities just enumerated.

In brief, then, such was Rigby. Let us turn to Martineau, who happened to be his junior, and also his survivor, and who seems very early to have imbibed a strong and ardent taste for surgery, it being related that, whilst a student at Edinburgh, he thus wrote to his only parent then in Norwich—“What say you, Madam? suppose I dignify myself with the title of Doctor? it has a pleasing sound, but—while *the seeds of surgery* are so deeply rooted in me, it would be difficult to think of any thing else.”† Although Martineau wrote thus familiarly in early life, he put his pen to paper, during the period of my knowledge of him, less frequently than most people. It has been stated that with his very social, and practical, non-theoretical habits, he was not permitted to acquire the character of a man of learning;

* Eulogy on Rigby, p. 50.

† Memoir of the late Philip Meadows Martineau, 4to. 1831, p. 6.

but he possessed on the other hand great strength of judgment and decision of character. One benefit which he shed over his profession sprang from his courteous manners and the high circle in which he moved upon terms of equality, for “his hospitalities were elegant and he lived in frequent intercourse with the best society of the county and city.” So observes, and very correctly, his Biographer; but my knowledge of Martineau was chiefly founded on my intercourse with, and observation of him, during many years in this Institution, and I can affirm that, as an operator, he was most skilful, and always went direct, *by the shortest cut*, to his purpose; and although at one period his zeal abated somewhat, it seemed to revive with increased and increasing energy, when he was far advanced in life; and when above the age of three score and ten years, I have frequently witnessed his performance of the most delicate operations, with as much precision and success, and as steady a hand, as ever were exhibited in our Theatre. His mind was as steady as his hand, and we may say

Animo, æque ac manu, strenuo, stabili nec unquam intremiscente.

Looking purely to the surgical department of the Hospital, Martineau certainly had the very unusual merit of giving greater encouragement to the scientific pursuit of it, and of investigations for its improvement, in the few latest years of his life; and after a length and efficiency of services, which have rarely been equalled in any Hospital, this able Surgeon, on resigning his office, only a few months before his decease, used this emphatic language—“I shall always feel a deep interest in the *prosperity and reputation* of the Institution, for which I have felt an *almost paternal affection* from its earliest dawn.” His Biographer has spoken of “his lively greeting, courteous address, ready hospitality, and kindly welcome;” and many amongst the present company, who can picture to themselves from their own recollection what Martineau was, will attest those remarks to be characteristic. In the latter years of his life, he

attended frequently at the Weekly and General Board of Governors, “where,”* it is pointedly observed, “the absence of his directing mind and polished manners will be long felt and regretted.”

The friends of both these surgical heroes of our Hospital will not fail to contrast their dissimilar qualifications, which, nevertheless, tended to the same result, being cemented by one common feeling of zeal and interest in behalf of the Institution. Rigby and Martineau were as different in person and manner, as in mind and practice. Although remotely of Norman extraction,† Rigby was characteristically an Englishman, exhibiting more of plain honesty than of studied politeness; he possessed so little caution, that his very secrets he talked of in the streets; his person was large, and in his advanced years not well supported. Martineau was erect, quick in movement as in thought, even to the last year of his life, and in dress, gesture and conversation, exhibited traits of his more recent Gallic‡ origin; still, in regard to all the great requisites for promoting the objects and supporting the reputation of this public charity, each was *alter et idem*.

Speaking still of Martineau (for I have elsewhere spoken amply of Rigby) I cannot forbear to add, that, often as I had observed him, much as I had associated with him in professional public avocations, I never felt so much admiration for his character, as during the painful illness which preceded his death. I was with him, to give surgical aid, at intervals of exactly twelve hours, for the last month of his life, and witnessed his entire resignation to the irresistible event of which he was fully aware. For the many enjoyments life had afforded him beyond his deserts,—enjoyments interrupted by so little suffering of any sort,—he expressed his grateful sense towards the Disposer of all events,

* Memoir of Martineau, p. 11.

† It is believed that Rigby was descended from Roger de Rigby, who came over with William the Conqueror.

‡ His ancestor, a Surgeon at Dieppe, migrated in 1685, on the revocation of the edict of Nantes, and settled in Norwich.

wholly unmingled with regret at parting with those earthly blessings he had so long, so fully been possessed of. He referred to these topics in the same becoming strain continually, and with thankfulness that, although in pain, he possessed consciousness to refer seriously to them. I have witnessed the last moments of not a few men in our profession, but never of one with a mind mingling so much humility with a sense of his own honourable course of life, never of one with a more Christian feeling of hopeful resignation. Thus I minuted events at the awful hour, little anticipating or expecting on what occasion these sentiments would be brought forward, to move the feelings of any attached friends who may compose a part of the present assembly.

Thus far, what I have submitted, has had reference to distinguished individuals who are no more. I must now enter upon still more delicate ground. I must now endeavour to sketch, for I cannot hope fully to pourtray, the professional character and high qualifications of one, who is still living, though not amongst us—would that he were amongst us on this peculiar occasion, with all his wonted faculties, his keen perceptions, to hear and observe what transpires, and to appreciate the feelings of many Governors now present, his admirers, friends or relatives, who shall attend to even my feeble pencillings of his useful walk in life, more particularly as one of the surgeons of this Hospital!

There cannot be a higher, nor a more pleasing duty assigned to me, than to do honour to the eminent men of the profession to which I belong—not only to those of times gone by, but equally to contemporaries, where circumstances either permit of or demand it. No well-instructed member of the medical profession should fear genius and talent in another, when honourably exercised; competition is, indeed, the very heart and soul of our energetic calling, as it is of most others that are useful. In eliciting the natural ability assigned to each, in fostering superior acquirements, in promoting zeal, assiduity, kind attentions, competition is the steam-

power urging us on at high pressure to all that is most beneficial to society, and it is only noxious when out of order, or escaped from its prescribed line. All unbecoming competition MR. DALRYMPLE was a stranger to, for his ardent love of the calling he had embraced, and so successfully pursued, was the powerful and the only needed stimulus to his exertions. Whilst practising in this city, he constantly shewed himself more jealous of his reputation than of his purse; he left the public to find out his qualifications and required that it should seek to reward him, being not in the pursuit of wealth, like one possessed of mediocrity of talent, but in pursuit of the science of his profession and of his own continual improvement in that science.

It appears that Mr. Dalrymple was many years resident in this city ere his talents were adequately appreciated, and longer before he became connected with this Hospital. His rise was the slower, but perhaps the more secure, from his delicacy on certain professional points, and his deference to certain customs which help to regulate our profession, and which if young men do not respect, they have no longer any guide but their passions. People are led so much more by their prejudices and feelings, than by reason and good judgment, that the art of rising in practice consists as much in *knowing how to please*, as *how to cure diseases*; it is not surprising that Mr. Dalrymple, who so well understood *both* these, should have ultimately gained the most extensive employment and the highest reputation in his profession; no man knew better how to unlock the affections of those patients whom he once attended, and he opened all the avenues to their understandings by the most refined eloquence.

Mr. Dalrymple had just been appointed Surgeon to the Hospital when I first knew him, and I can state with great sincerity, that some of the most pleasant and most instructive social hours I have spent for professional purposes, have been spent in his society, and of which neither time nor circumstances have affected the

grateful recollection. On my first fixing in this city, above thirty years ago, a stranger to its inhabitants, well versed in those pursuits which shew their effects in such a pathological collection as is now before us, it was my good fortune to spend a great proportion of my leisure hours with Mr. Dalrymple, never failing to receive more information from his highly-cultivated mind and ample experience, than I was able to communicate upon the art in which I had been so especially educated, and which at that time had scarcely been introduced into this city. I reflect upon the period of my assistant-surgeoncy in this Institution as the happiest part of my happy life, since I became a resident of this city; and it was mainly rendered so, as I have often mentioned, from my intercourse with Mr. Dalrymple, who spent more of his valuable time in the Hospital than any other officer; for it was indeed “the palace in which he delighted to dwell,” not less for humane, than for scientific purposes. When the short period of my assistant-surgeoncy had terminated, and heavier duties devolved upon me, I found in all cases of great difficulty and anxiety, the greatest comfort in Mr. Dalrymple’s assistance and support; while it was not unusual for him to seek the assistance of his surgical colleagues with a modesty and readiness, that ought to be held forth as an example to the whole Profession.

I am quite aware that, on such an occasion as this, it is not in good taste to make *I* the first letter of the alphabet, but no better way has occurred to me of giving prominence to some leading features in Mr. Dalrymple’s character, than by referring to my own experience. Who is there that knew much of him, and did not applaud that great sensitiveness for his patients, which led him to feel interested in their comforts and well-doing, to his own distress and injury? or has not been captivated by his eloquence, his ready wit, and his extensive information, available upon all the general topics that engage the attention of the most polished

society, and which imparted a charm to his conversation that raised him above all ordinary men? Amidst the honourable strife inseparable from our calling, and under circumstances which always placed me in unequal competition, no living being has ever heard from my lips a word respecting Mr. Dalrymple, that was not in strict accordance with this public statement; I have no winged words of flattery for this occasion, and there is no fear of my language surpassing the subject of my discourse, as regards his professional abilities and character.

Never shall I forget assisting Mr. Dalrymple on his first dissecting the stomach of the camel. Here are the very specimens, prepared in that instance, nearly as long as twenty-five years ago.* Perhaps it will be allowable to say a few words about this beautiful mechanism, which forms the peculiar characteristic of the camel and its tribe, fitting them to live in the sandy desert, where the supplies of water are so very precarious.

Man, possessed of reason, is provided with but one stomach, and it is often not very easy to satisfy that one; but graminivorous animals have often three or four, and the latter is the privileged number of the camel's stomachs.

The first stomach receives the food,† with the power of returning it into the mouth for rumination. The second forms the singular provision of the destined life of the camel, and is a reservoir for water only, being composed of cells or cavities, each capable of holding a few ounces of water, and of closing to shut this fluid up, as if in a bottle, until it is needed in the first stomach, to quench thirst and supply moisture for rumination; and when after rumination, the food re-enters the first stomach, it passes through the second by a channel,

* These are two dried Preparations, one being the first stomach, and the other the reservoir, occupied by deep cells, except at the upper part, where the channel from the first to the third is situated.

† The anatomical description was aided in this part of the Address, by Drawings of the camel's stomachs of the natural size, prepared only a few hours before the Meeting by Mr. Henry Pulley, and now deposited in the Museum.

distinct from the cells for water, and directly reaches the third, and thence the fourth, in which last the process of digestion, or the conversion of the food for the immediate supply of the body, is performed.

The camel will drink six or eight gallons of water at once, which it requires to renew, even when it has access to a plenty, not oftener than every two days. That the water is conducted in its pure state through the first cavity, into the second or reservoir, until this is full, seems to have been satisfactorily ascertained, and this being accomplished, the rest of the fluid taken goes no further than *the first stomach, which* is afterwards, when necessary, supplied from the reservoir. It is well worth remarking that *the first provision here is for the future*, in laying by an indispensable store for the hour of need, and *afterwards* the more immediate demand is attended to ! When the animal has died in this country soon after taking water, the clear fluid has been drawn from the cells of the water-reservoir by tapping, thus supporting the account given by travellers, that, when the animal dies in the desert, his driver embraces the opportunity of opening its stomach, and obtains the pure water from the cells of the reservoir to quench his thirst.*

Such is the formation of the camel's stomachs, affording one of the most impressive examples of foresight, by the adjustment of anatomical structure to pre-ordained circumstances known only to the Creator of the Universe ! and never, I repeat, never shall I forget Mr. Dalrymple, when he first witnessed that formation ; he stood fixed, and long fixed, as a statue, wrapt in admiration ! he looked through nature, up to nature's God, exclaiming, on bended knee, *how wonderful ! how wonderful !*

This is one of the many instances that might be quoted, exhibiting the susceptibility and enthusiasm

* See Sir Everard Home's Lectures on Comparative Anatomy. 4to Vol. I. p. 165.

of Mr. Dalrymple upon the scientific objects of his profession. My ability falls short of my wishes, in this attempt to do justice to so talented and respected a colleague, who (according to the words of the inscription, which has met the approbation of the Committee, and is there placed,* to remain as long as the wall in which it rests,) “after the Institution had so fully profited by his genius, skill, and experience, whilst performing the arduous and responsible duties of surgeon, has shed an enduring influence over its prosperity, by being the originator of the Museum of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.”

Thus in the shade of retirement Mr. Dalrymple did not forget the Institution he so long fostered by his active services, but at the close of his professional career, he sought to promote its best objects by offering his entire collection in anatomy and pathology. No other man could have made the same proposal with equal certainty of a successful result. It has been received most favourably by the Governors, and gladly embraced by the Medical Officers; never indeed was greater deference paid to the opinions and wishes of those Officers, as evinced by the numerous list of Governors who promptly answered the call upon their liberality, and have continued their support from the first moment of the proposal to establish a Museum, up to the present hour, an auspicious hour in the history of the Hospital; for who that now enters this room for the first time, is not impressed with equal astonishment and delight at its contents? Who, regarding Mr. Dalrymple as not only the originator, but the most bountiful contributor, would hesitate to accord the honour due to him, and say,

Si monumentum quæris circumspice?

The time for this great improvement had arrived; it was required, to keep up that regular advancement

* The inscription, splendidly executed on vellum, glazed, and in a stone frame, is conspicuously infixed in the south wall of the building; and a duplicate for Mr. Dalrymple was presented to his son at the Inauguration, as an heirloom for his family.

which the Hospital has made from the first. In practical useful matters of this kind, as in all human affairs, nothing is quite stationary; you must go on, or you will certainly go back. With so many smaller institutions of the kind rising into notice and active operation in the district, it is not to be supposed that this Hospital could continue to maintain the same extent of usefulness to the public, and much less its relative importance, as the first and only recognized Hospital in this eastern extremity of the kingdom, unless something be done to advance its position. The Hospital is said to have a great reputation, which is undoubtedly correct; and for it, are we not mainly indebted to such talented and zealous officers as have been this day brought under your notice, and whose portraits adorn the gallery of the building? Let it not be forgotten that, where no novel or unusual competition exists, it requires generally as much effort to support, as to attain high reputation; and this remark applies equally to public institutions and to individuals.

The first and great object of a general Hospital regards the treatment and cure of the afflicted—but in the accomplishment of this object it is always found desirable, in all such institutions where a considerable number of patients are assembled, to keep in view another object of scarcely less importance—and indeed the two are found naturally blended together, and almost to coalesce into one, when strictly and analytically viewed. Instruction given to pupils, compared with the relief afforded to the afflicted inmates, is like seed sown for a future and abundant harvest—it is a geometrical multiplication of good—a legacy left, with accumulating interest, by the present to succeeding generations. You can never keep up the character of any large Hospital, where its utility as a theatre and centre of medical instruction is unwisely counteracted and frustrated by the Governors; and very little is heard of the reputation of any Hospital, whose doors are not open to profes-

sional visitors. Considering the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital in this respect, we may affirm that it realizes Benjamin Gooch's favourite motto—" *Patet omnibus*"—a man ranks low indeed in the scale, whose medical and general character is such, that he would be excluded from entering the wards of this establishment, at all proper times, for purposes of occasional observation and instruction.

From its earliest date, students have been admitted to the practice of the Hospital,* of which hundreds have fully profited, but only within the last fifteen years have clinical lectures been delivered within its walls;† and still more recently, under the advancement of provincial hospitals generally, and more just and less exclusive views in our Corporate Medical Institutions, has this Hospital been recognized for supplying a part of the education required of each student by law, a change which distinguishes it from all the minor establishments of this district, comprizing nearly a million of inhabitants. With this circumstance the Governors ought to be fully acquainted, as well as with the fact that the annual income of the Hospital has for several years past been augmented by fees from students. Thus, in the progress of events, has additional responsibility been made to rest upon this Institution, and a claim arisen for fresh and increased opportunities of instruction to students; had all the Governors been aware of, instead of most of them being wholly unacquainted with these circumstances, as really happens to be the case, no more serviceable, proper or effectual step could have been

* The late Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. one of the brightest ornaments of British Surgery, was placed with Rigby on commencing his studies, and the first Hospital he ever entered was the Norfolk and Norwich; and his nephew, Mr. Bransby B. Cooper, of London, a liberal contributor to the Museum building, shewed his attachment to the theatre of his earliest studies, when explaining the unavoidable impediments to his being present at this inauguration: he denominates it "*the exaltation of the dear old Hospital.*"

† It was in November, 1829, that I first commenced giving clinical lectures on Surgery to the pupils, which have been continued to the present time; and Mr. J. Godwin Johnson, my colleague, gives equal attention with myself to this important duty. Dr. Hull has also delivered lectures to the pupils.

taken, to meet the demand, than making such an important addition as we are now assembled to commemorate. It is probably unparalleled for any provincial Hospital to have become at once possessed of such an anatomical collection as already occupies this apartment, in which the most instructed of our profession may find much to interest them. Every such collection, indeed, contains specimens which are not to be found elsewhere, something curious, illustrative and unique.

But it is to the students I should particularly refer, when speaking of the great utility of this fresh addition to the opportunities this Hospital affords, of gaining sound valuable instruction. To you, young gentlemen, therefore, the students now present,* whom I am accustomed, in common with others of my colleagues, to address with earnestness, and always with a sincere desire to promote your welfare, I can truly state, that I am glad to avail myself of this most auspicious occasion, in the presence of so large and influential an assembly, to offer a few words which I hope will sink deeply into your breasts, that you may convey to those who follow you, the feelings you experience this day, and revive those feelings whenever you revisit this room to imbibe the instruction it is so capable of affording you. The plain duty of every teacher consists mainly in managing the restless activity of the youthful mind, and engaging it in the right channels; the studies on which you have entered ought to offer the greatest facilities for the performance of that duty, since they abound with what is essential and valuable for you to know, and are sufficient to allure you to constant industry. Upon the experience of a long series of years spent in medical studies, I venture to assure you, that scarcely any other calling abounds so much in interesting opportunities for acquiring knowledge directly applicable to the good of society. I would

* Those students present, who are still pursuing their studies, occupied the most elevated bench on the area, directly opposite the platform, at the time they were thus formally addressed.

have you keep in mind, that the higher the objects you aim at, with steadiness and perseverance, the more will you attain, although you fail to accomplish the height of your ambitious views. It is hoped that none of those, who commence their studies under the advantages of such an Establishment as this, will fall short of that average degree of information, which may be regarded as the minimum the public ought to be satisfied with; the more you rise above mediocrity, in the same proportion will you be entitled to public esteem and gratitude. Do not fall into the error of supposing that your future duties will consist in prescribing for diseases, and the symptoms of disease, much less in performing mutilating operations; you will have to manage the minds of your patients, and to lay down the rules of temperance for the prevention of disease, and above all, as I have often repeated to you, *never consider yourselves privileged to give pain, but for the purpose of relieving pain!* Let me recall to you an example, this day set before you, and placed on literary record for two centuries—the example of Sir Thomas Browne—and be like him *impatient of sloth and idleness*—beware at all times of being *engaged in doing just nothing*—but still more *beware of doing what your creed and your conscience tell you is evil!* Read and ponder on the sentences I have quoted from the writings of Benjamin Gooch, and let them be golden rules for your daily observance, not only whilst you continue to be students, but subsequently when you shall have merged into the responsibilities of professional practice—take a lesson from what you will find recorded of Rigby, *that he entered the hovel with as little reluctance as the mansion*—keep constantly before you the courteous, high-minded deportment, and cultivate the practical tact of Martineau—aim at the untiring zeal of Dalrymple, through which so much of what you see around you has been deposited for your instruction; moreover, aim at, with however little hope of attaining, his *eloquent, amusing, colloquial discourse,*

which aided so much in giving him the needed influence over the feelings of his patients. By selecting traits of character from such local models as these, may each and all of you, under their guidance, but still with no servile restraint or imitation, mark out a line of conduct and effect the formation of such a character, as are best suited to the demands of Society, in the situation you may be respectively called to fill; thereby laying a good and sure foundation for your usefulness and prosperity in life!

But, my young friends, I should ill perform the duty I owe you on this occasion, which can never recur with the same effect—and feebly should I avail myself of the vantage ground on which I am placed, in the presence of the Noble Chairman, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese—of this learned, wealthy, and influential assembly, and of so many eminent and respectable members of the medical profession, were I to stop here—something requires to be added—and in doing which I shall follow in part the language, used on a somewhat similar occasion, by one of the brightest ornaments of our profession—a Northern star now set for ever*—with whom I had the good fortune to possess some acquaintance. “Whatever may be its pretensions, that is unworthy of the name of science, which professes to trace the sequences of nature, and yet fails to discover the mighty hand which arranged them all—which fails to bow, in humble adoration, before the power and wisdom, the harmony and beauty, which pervade all the works of Him who is eternal,” the Creator and Sustainer of this wonderful Universe! Be not so engrossed in the observation of external objects, however useful, as to neglect the religious and moral culture of your own minds; for after all, the acts most influential over your happiness, transpire chiefly *within*.

* The late Dr. John Abercrombie, of Edinburgh, one of the most valuable physicians of modern times in this empire, and to whose high character and great acquirements no adequate memorial has hitherto been dedicated. The extracts are taken from an address delivered to the students of Marischal College, Aberdeen, on the occasion of his installation as Lord Rector of that University.

“It is *there* that we trace the elements of those noble faculties, which, if duly cultivated, secure at once our usefulness and our happiness—and it is *there* that we find the germs of those vulture passions, whose dominion is worse than Eastern bondage, and under whose relentless tyranny, a man who is master of the world may be still a slave! In the conquest of these consists the highest dignity of our nature, and in the controul and subjugation of them our only solid peace!”

And now, my Lord and Gentlemen, by your sufferance, and in compliance with the suggestion of the Museum Committee, I have executed, however imperfectly, the arduous, yet not onerous task assigned me—and it only remains that I express thanks for this patient hearing, which I ascribe to your high approval of the valuable measure which you have so handsomely supported by your purse, your advocacy, and your presence on this occasion. Posterity will have to thank not only Mr. Dalrymple, as the originator of this undertaking, but all those who have in any way contributed to it—an undertaking so engrafted into my warmest feelings, that I will adhere to it fervently, as long as I shall continue capable of performing any active services within the walls of your renowned and incalculably valuable Institution. I only claim leave to add, in reference to this Museum—*sit perpetuum*—may it remain to benefit your children’s children, and their posterity, to many succeeding generations!